

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 19264 241950Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 19264

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ANDREOTTI VISIT - TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. THE DCM SAW UMBERTO LA ROCCA, WHO IS ANDREOTTI'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER, TO LEARN THE TOPICS WHICH ANDREOTTI WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON. LA ROCCA SAID THAT FINAL PLANNING FOR WASHINGTON HAD NOT BEEN DONE YET BECAUSE ANDREOTTI MUST GO TO THE HAGUE FOR THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING, NOVEMBER 29 AND 30. ON DECEMBER 2 GISCARD D'ESTAING WILL VISIT ITALY FOR ONE DAY. THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN LUCCA, GISCARD ARRIVING AT PISA AIRPORT. IT WILL BE A WORKING VISIT, BUT SINCE IT WILL NOT TAKE PLACE IN ROME, ANDREOTTI AND HIS OFFICIALS WILL HAVE TO BE OUT OF TOWN THE WHOLE DAY. FINALLY, THE TRIP TO WASHINGTON WITH DEPARTURE VIA A REGULARLY SCHEDULED ALITALIA FLIGHT, ON DECEMBER 5. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALL THE DETAILS OF THE HOUR-BY-HOUR SCHEDULE AND THE LIST OF MEETINGS.

2. LA ROCCA SAID THAT ANDREOTTI WILL WISH TO INFORM PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING WHICH WILL BE DEVOTED LARGELY TO ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, AND MONETARY PROBLEMS. IN THIS CONNECTION, OF COURSE, ANDREOTTI WILL LAY OUT HIS OWN ECONOMIC PROGRAM WHICH HE BELIEVES MUST BE CONSIDERED IN THE OVERALL TO BE VERY MUCH IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 19264 241950Z

EUROPEAN CONTEXT. ANDREOTTI IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE

NEED FOR ITALY NOT TO FALL BEHIND THE OTHER PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY. HE IS ANXIOUS TO AVOID A TWO-TIER COMOJNITY AND THUS IS CONSCIOUS OF THE NECESSITY TO TACKLE ITALY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN A WAY WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE COUNTRY TO KEEP PACE WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NINE. LA ROCCA SAID THAT ANDREOTTI HOPES BY NEXT JUNE TO HAVE REDUCED THE INFLATION RATE BY 5 TO 6 PERCENT AND TO HAVE ELIMINATED THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEFICIT.

3. ANDREOTTI WILL BE ANXIOUS TO TALK ABOUT THE NORTH/SOUTHDIALOGUE. THE ITALIANS EXPECT THIS TO BE A MAJOR SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING. LA ROCCA RECOGNIZES THE UNDESIRABILITY OF ANY WESTERN LINKAGE BETWEEN THE OUTCOME OF THE CDWC AND THE OPEC MEETINGS. AT THE SAME TIME HE IMPLIED THE ITALIANS EXPECT THAT OPEC'S ACTION ON PRICES WILL IN PART DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CIEC MEETING. LA ROCCA IMPLIED THAT ANDREOTTI MAY WELL BE CHARGED BY HIS PEERS AMONG THE NINE WITH BEING THEIR SPOKESMAN AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN WASHINGTON ON THIS ISSUE.

4. ALTHOUGH LA ROCCA MADE CLEAR THAT FINAL PLANNING ON THE ITALIAN SIDE CONCERNING THE WASHINGTON VISIT HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT ANDREOTTI WILL BE PREPARED TO SET OUT THE BASIC POLITICAL RATIONALE BEHIND HIS GOVERNMENTS'S ACTIONS. ACCORDING TO LA ROCCA, ANDREOTTI'S MAIN STRENGTH IN THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE AT THE MOMENT STEMS FROM THE DILEMMA FACING THE COMMUNIST PARTY. THE PCI HAS MADE RESPONSIBILITY AND RESPECTABILITY THE TWIN PILLARS OF ITS POLICY, NOT ONLY WITHIN ITALY BUT WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN OBSERVERS, AND IT IS FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY THIS POLICY TO ITS WORKING CLASS BASE. THIS HAS LED THEM TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE COUNTRY MUST BE GOVERNED DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD AND THAT THE PRESENT FORMULA IS THE ONLY ONE THAT IS FEASIBLE. LA ROCCA CONTRASTED THIS ATTITUDE WITH THE IRRESPONSIBILITY OF THE REPUBLICANS, SOCIAL-DEMOCRWUS, AND SOCIALISTS WHO REFUSED TO COOPERATE IN THE GOVERNMENT BY POSING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 19264 241950Z

CONDITIONS WHICH WERE INTOLERABLE TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, I.E., COMMUNIST ENTRY INTO THE GOVERNMENT MAJORITY. ANDREOTTI BELIEVES THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE COMMUNISTS BE KEPT IN OPPOSITION AND, ACCORDING TO LA ROCCA, LIMITS HIS DEALINGS WITH THEM TO SPECIFIC CONCRETE ISSUES. LA ROCCA WAS EXPLICIT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO GENERAL DEAL STRUCK BETWEEN ANDREOTTI AND THE PCI.

5. THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT ACCORDING TO LA ROCCA, IS TO REDRESS THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PLAY FOR TIME WHILE THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY RENEWS ITSELF TO TAKE UP THE STRUGGLE MORE VIGOROUSLY ONCE THE ECONOMY HAS BEEN PUT RIGHT AND THE COUNTRY IS NOT IN IMMEDIATE DANGER OF THE KIND OF CRISIS WHICH COULD CALL THE XISTENCE OF A DEMOCRATIC REGIME INTO QUESTION.

6. WE BELIEVE THAT LA ROCCA CLOSELY REFLECTS ANDREOTTI'S OWN THINKING AND DOES NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE THAT A COMMUNIST MOVE INTO THE GOVERNING MAJORITY IS INEVITABLE. IN THIS CONNECTION, ANDREOTTI IS THINKING OF HAVING PRESS BACKGROUNDEERS WHILE IN THE U.S. BUT HE IS SENSITIVE TO THE DANGERS OF HOLDING PUBLIC PRESS CONFERENCES WHERE HIS SUBTLE, COMPLICATED LINE WOULD EASILY BECOME DISTORTED, CREATING ADDITIONAL DIFFICULTIES BACK HOME. HE APPARENTLY WILL GIVE NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT SCHUSTER AN INTERVIEW PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, THUS SETTING THE STAGE WITH A NEW YORK TIMES' PIECE APPEARING ABOUT THE TIME HE ARRIVES IN THE U.S. VOLPE

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